

The Rocks
Near Eutaw Springs
Orangeburg County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-58

HABS
SC
38-EUTA.V,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office
for Southeast Unit

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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THE ROCKS

Near Eutaw Springs, Orangeburg County, South Carolina

Owner: Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric and Navigation ProjectDate of erection: 1803-5Present condition: Very good, repaired; in danger of inundationBuilder: Captain Peter GaillardDescription:

Two full stories high; hipped roof; fairly high basement; weatherboarded on all elevations. Nine-light sash is used, as usual, in the windows both upstairs and down. Louvered shutters occur except on the porch, where they are paneled. The posts of the porch are Tuscan columns attenuated to express wood, the material used, instead of stone. They are well designed and, while lacking the graceful naiveté of the slender posts of the other early examples, have a pleasantly substantial character. Both the porch and the main cornice are enriched with closely spaced pseudo-modillions and triglyphs. The roof is hipped, the planes being pitched at about thirty degrees. Its design is very satisfactory, giving an effect of repose and relating well to the site. The roof is pierced on the side slopes by large square chimney stacks, and the lower courses of the caps are painted white to simulate the almost universal plastered neckings found in this region.

The plan comprises a pair of equal drawing rooms in the front with an intercommunicating door, and a door to the porch from each. These rooms have a pair of windows on each outside wall and a fireplace in the rear wall, with a door to the hall at one side. This rear hall has a stair against one wall and a pair of closets facing it. At the rear are the doors to the flanking rooms. An extension in the rear takes the form of a covered porch at the end of the hall, with a small room at either side. These latter are heated by chimneys built against the side wall. The rear extension, duplicating the outline of the front porch, serves to balance the side elevation.

The interior has its fine original woodwork in perfect condition. The mantels are of exceptional merit, and according to Gaillard's day book were ordered from the north. Their design suggests Rhode Island as their source, similar motives being found in such houses as the Nightingale house in Providence, although this latter example is earlier and more elaborate. The

mantels themselves are quite typical, with slender reeded pilasters supporting a narrow fluted architrave, wide frieze, and delicate cornice. The latter has a band of Wall of Troy dentils, and the pilaster and frieze blocks have carved sunbursts. Surrounding the fireplaces are facings of closely mottled Pennsylvania blue marble. The overmantels have coupled reeded pilasters supporting full entablatures similar in detail to that below, though lacking the carved blocks, and possessing broken serpentine pediments. The central panel is richly moulded with a supplementary applied moulding. This latter is cut at the corners in the form of indented quadrants.

The cornice of the room repeats the detail of the mantel and caps a frieze decorated with closely spaced triglyphs and metopes, the former reeded and the latter filled with lozenge devices. The dado is paneled with moulded chair rail and base, the former showing some carving. While the stair hall lacks the enrichments of the mantels its refined detail and judicious disposition of mouldings give it great distinction. A paneled dado surrounds the hall and continues up the stair. The balustrade is formed of simple rectangular verticals, three to a tread, and a simply moulded walnut handrail. The newel is square in plan, cut to a profile of an attenuated Doric column. Decorating the stair ends are interlacing strapwork brackets, above a raking architrave.

Additional data:

The Rocks was built by Captain Peter Gaillard, who, seeking to retrieve his fortune lost with the extinction of the indigo trade, bought the land and raised cotton on it. The land, enriched by marl (causing the plantation name) proved to be a bonanza, and only eight years after the purchase he was able to complete his fine house. Fortunately, Gaillard's day book is still in existence, and this gives 1803 as the date of the commencement of building preparations and 1805 as completion.

In recent years The Rocks was sold and thoroughly repaired by the new owners.

--From "A Survey of the Early Buildings in the Region of the Proposed Santee and Pinopolis Reservoirs in South Carolina," by Thomas T. Waterman

Other existing records: Stoney, S. G., Plantations of the Carolina Low Country

Author: T. Waterman

Approved: 10/11/40

Addendum to:

The Rocks (Captain Peter Gaillard Plantation House)
Approximately 4 miles east of Eutaw Springs
Eutaw Springs Vicinity
Orangeburg County
South Carolina

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Department of the Interior
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